(xi) Travel grants provided to six scholars.

(xii) Under the Cultural Exchange Programme 5 scholars were deputed and one scholar invited from abroad.

(xiii) 14 books, 9 monographs and 13 issues of Journal of ICPR (JICPR) were published.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. In September 2002, a Peer Review Committee under the chairmanship of Prof. D.P. Chattopadhyaya reviewed the activities of ICPR. Important recommendations of the Peer Review Committee, in brief, are as under:-

i) The Council has adequately created infrastructure, programmes and activities which are appropriate to its objectives as contained in its Memorandum of Association.

ii) The Council can be expected to make greater contribution so that the Indian message to itself and to the world, which is both spiritual and philosophical as also interdisciplinary and integral, is emphasised for purposes of the achievement of the aims of human welfare.

iii) ICPR should continue to function as an autonomous organisation and to fulfil its interdisciplinary character; it should develop larger relationships with sister Councils and learned bodies of the country and the world.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) There is no such proposal before the Government.

Quality education year

1404. SHRI N.R. DASARI:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the year 2002-2003 was observed as "Quality Education Year"; and

(b) if so, the details of the programme evolved and being implemented in order to improve the quality of education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Plan of action for children

1405. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI N.R. DASARI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a voluntary organisation, centre of concern for child labour, has demanded Government for a special mention of children living in rural areas of the country in the proposed "Plan of Action for Children"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Center of Concern for Child Labour, New Delhi have offered comments and suggestions on the draft National Plan of Action for Children, prepared by the Department of Women and Child Development, during the process of consultation. The organization has suggested to "give more thrust on dealing with child labour in rural areas".